



CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON

*7th District Pennsylvania*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: (202) 225-2011  
Pete Peterson/Doug Ritter

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## **Weldon Blasts Clinton Defense Budget**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), Chairman of the House Military Research and Development Subcommittee, issued the following statement criticizing President Clinton's defense budget request for fiscal year 1998.

"Here we go again: the Clinton Administration continues to pay lip service to the need for force modernization, but its budget is years too late and billions of dollars short. Once again, the Department is kicking the can down the road, and at this point, promises of future funding increases strain credibility."

"The new Secretary acknowledged the dangers of deferring modernization, but this budget continues to do just that. It reveals an increasing imbalance between the Administration's activist security policy and its idle defense budget.

"This budget comes nowhere close to meeting General Shalikashvili's \$60 billion annual procurement goal. When will this Administration begin to heed the urgent pleas of its military leaders?"

"Adding insult to injury, the Clinton Administration expects Congress to find nearly \$2 billion in the budget to pay for the President's Bosnia mission. That will put us even further behind in our efforts to address shortfalls in 1997, and this budget simply compounds those problems."